



MANAGING OUR TURF  
ATHLETIC FIELD PREP

Maintaining the turf of 90 softball fields, 26 soccer and lacrosse fields and five football fields is no small task for the City’s Parks Maintenance Division.

According to Park Maintenance Supervisor Ed O’Brien, putting the turf “to bed” healthy in the fall is the key to creating healthy turf in the spring.

“We aerate, over-seed and fertilize to ensure the healthiest turf possible before winter arrives,” O’Brien said.

Outdoor temperatures must be consistently above 50 degrees before seeds can germinate. Even if temps remain above 50 degrees, the ground must be extremely firm before heavy equipment can run on it, which usually requires spreading seeds by hand. Once seeds have germinated, the process of watering, aerating and fertilizing begins again.

“We spend weeks prepping the turf, which is why it is so important for people to respect the signage,” O’Brien said. “We have a saying that goes, ‘you grow grass by the inch, but kill it by the foot.’”

What is the cost to homeowners? The owner of a median valued home of \$212,800 pays only \$1.14 a month for a service that keeps athletic fields maintained year round.

DON’T GET BURNED  
MAKE FIRE SAFETY A PRIORITY

Spring has arrived, but before you enjoy that outdoor fire or barbecue, keep in mind the following fire safety tips:

- As a courtesy to your neighbors, tell them ahead of time if you are going to have a recreational fire.
- Take care when using charcoal, propane and natural gas grills. Check propane grill hoses for cracks, leaks and a tight connection to the tank. Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start charcoal.
- Open flame and barbecues on balconies or patios are restricted for two-family dwellings, townhomes and multiple-family dwellings.
- Candles or tiki torches should never be placed close to combustible materials or left unattended.

For more information, contact the Fire Prevention Division at 952-563-8933 or Bloomington Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION HANDOUTS.

PREPARING FOR SPRING



MAKE YOUR GARDEN WORK FOR YOU  
RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP TEACHES DESIGN, INSTALLATION



The City of Bloomington and Lower Minnesota Watershed District are hosting a rain garden workshop for Bloomington residents on **Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.** The workshop takes place in the rehearsal hall at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Workshop participants will receive instruction from professional landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners who will discuss:

- Planning the location of your garden.
- Limiting fertilizers and pesticides.
- Incorporating native plants into your garden.
- Capturing rain water and redirecting downspouts.

This workshop is facilitated by Metro Blooms, a nonprofit gardening organization. For more information or to register for the workshop, call 651-699-2426 or visit [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org).

PROTECTING THE MINNESOTA RIVER  
PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Landowners living in the area bounded by 102nd Street to the north, I-35W to the west and the Minnesota River to the south and east are eligible to participate in a pilot program to further improve the water quality of the Minnesota River.

In addition to rain gardens, participants will receive free design and installation of shade trees, pervious pavement, or native and perennial plants to replace turf grass. For more information, visit [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org).



GET OUT AND GROW!  
GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

Do you love to garden, but don’t have the space for your own? Garden plots are available for public use at Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South, and Harrison Park, 1701 West 100th Street. Community garden plots are 10 by 15 feet and are available April 15 - October 23, for \$33 per plot.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8882.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: GARDEN PLOTS.



OPPORTUNITIES TO  
PRACTICE YOUR SWING  
HYLAND GREENS PRACTICE  
DRIVING RANGE EXPANDING

Hyland Greens Driving Range may be moving from its current location on Normandale Boulevard to the middle of the Hyland Greens property.

If approved by the City Council, the move would allow for an expansion of the driving range from 12 to 36 hitting stations, which means even more opportunities to practice your swing before heading out to the course. The new range would sit on an all-grass practice area. Construction could begin in September, with the new practice area opening in spring 2012.

An open house about the practice range relocation will be held **Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**, at the Hyland Greens Clubhouse. For more information, contact Ali Hassan at 952-831-9372.



TIME TO PLANT SOME TREES  
ANNUAL SALE ADDS HUNDREDS OF TREES TO LANDSCAPE

Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s treasures. In fact, the City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds a public tree sale. Based on last year’s sales, 280 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

\_\_\_\_ Autumn Blaze red maple

\_\_\_\_ Green Mountain sugar maple

\_\_\_\_ Hackberry

\_\_\_\_ Imperial honeylocust

\_\_\_\_ Northwood red maple

\_\_\_\_ Prairie Fire crab apple

\_\_\_\_ River birch

\_\_\_\_ Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 7, 9 - 11 a.m.**  
Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



Green Mountain Sugar Maple © 2008 Halka Nurseries.

The City’s annual tree sale will provide a variety of tree species again this year, including: Autumn Blaze red maple, Green Mountain sugar maple, Hackberry, Imperial honeylocust, Northwood red maple, Prairie Fire crab apple, River birch, and Snowdrift crab apple.

Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. Visit our website for more information and a printable order form.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.